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Henry Barnard, the author of this poem, was born in Hartford, January 24, 1811. He was educated at Yale and later became a lawyer. His work was as a reformer in prisons, schools and asylums. He was called to the bar in 1834 and in 1835 he visited England and Ireland. He visited Richmond by special invitation of the Legislature, accompanied by Dr. Budd and her beautiful daughter, who afterwards married her brother. He was in the city for several days, and he visited the poor people, in order that he might demonstrate before the Legislature the need of teaching sign languages for the deaf and dumb. As a result of his visit, the Legislature passed a law for the establishment of a school for the deaf and dumb. His engagement, for some unknown causes, had been broken. The lady who sent us this poem was visiting in the house at which Barnard was entertained during his stay in this city sixty-two years ago.